1. A compound of the formula:

wherein:

Z is CH or N;

R is H or acyl;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> may be the same or different and represent H, alkyl or hydrocarbyl arylalkyl having up to 14 carbon atoms;

R<sub>4</sub> is H or alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms with the proviso

 $R_4$  is alkyl having 1–4 carbon atoms when Z is CH,  $R_5$  is H and  $R_4O$  is attached to the carbon atom labelled 4:

a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or a 30 pharmaceutically acceptable complex thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is N and  $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_4=R_5=H$ .

3. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is CH,  $R=R_1=R_2=$  35  $R_3=R_5=H$ , and  $R_4$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

 A compound of claim 3 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

5. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is N,  $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_5=H$ , and  $R_4$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

6. A compound of claim 5 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

7. A compound of claim 1 having the formula:

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wherein:

Z, R, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> have the meanings ascribed thereto in claim 1;

a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable complex thereof.

8. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N and  $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_4=R_5=H$ .

9. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH,  $R=R_1=R_2=$   $R_3=R_5=H$ , and  $R_4$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

10. A compound of claim 9 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

11. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N,  $R=R_1=R_2=R_3=R_5=H$ , and  $R_4$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

12. A compound of claim 11 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or t-butyl.

13. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH,  $R=R_4=R_1=R_2=R_3=H$ , and  $R_3$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

14. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH, R=R<sub>4</sub>=R<sub>1</sub>= R<sub>3</sub>=R<sub>5</sub>=H, and R<sub>2</sub> is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

15. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is CH,  $R=R_4=R_3=R_2=R_5=H$ , and  $R_1$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

16. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N,  $R=R_4=R_1=$  25  $R_2=R_5=H$ , and  $R_3$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

17. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N,  $R=R_4=R_1=R_3=R_5=H$ , and  $R_2$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

18. A compound of claim 7 wherein Z is N,  $R=R_4=R_3=R_2=R_5=H$ , and  $R_1$  is alkyl having 1-4 carbon atoms.

19. An optically pure compound of claim 1 or 7.

20. An (S)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

21. An (S)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

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22. An (S)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

23. An (R)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the 20 formula:

24. An (R)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

5 25. An (R)-enantiomer compound of claim 7 having the formula:

26. A pharmaceutical composition in unit dosage form for treating a pathological condition in a human or non-human animal that is associated with an excess of a trivalent metal, ion or compound thereof comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

27. A method of preventing or treating a pathological condition in a human or non-human animal that is associated with an excess of a trivalent metal, ion or compound thereof comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or 7.